

## THE SEA ROBBERS.

## Flight of the Ship Radjah at Lord North Island.

"Decided five days within hall of a fleet of sea robbers and without so much as a weapon except one pistol on board was the flight of the tall rigged ship Radjah, on which I was first mate some years back," said Henry Wallford, now first officer of the German steamship Lichtenfels, as he watched the bamboo being discharged from his vessel. "We had left Cardiff, England, for Hong Kong, with coal, by way of Cape Horn and the Southern Pacific. Both the captain and I had heard many tales of the sea robbers of Lord North Island who came to sailing vessels and steamers as traders, but who are the bloodthirstiest sea pirates that ever climbed aboard a ship."

It was high noon on New Year's Day, thirteen years ago, when the Radjah was in south latitude five degrees east longitude 138. We were then due east of the Philippines and slightly north by west of the Caroline group. We were scudding along under a fair breeze when I noticed a vessel bearing down on us. I called to the captain that I did not like the looks of the boat and suggested sea robbers. The skipper, who had the gout and whose avocations did not permit him making rapid headway in any direction, looked troubled. As I looked again within ten minutes of the time when I had noticed the first craft there were thirteen boats apparently making for us.

"I talked to the crew, twenty in all, most of whom were going below and barricading themselves. I told them that we hadn't any weapons except my pistol aboard ship and that every man might have to fight it out. I told them that if any one balked at fighting the sea robbers I would shoot him on the spot."



SIGHTING THE SEA ROBBERS.

Then I ordered the men to gather the largest lumps of coal they could get out of the hold and to place a good supply of the lumps all along the rail and at the bow and the stern of the Radjah. I intended that we would repel boarders with the coal if that was the only thing we could do, and I determined that we would fight the black pirates off to the last ditch.

"Through the glasses we counted at least twenty dark skinned hands in each boat, and I knew we were in for it if they ever got to us. Luckily we were to windward of the crew of cutthroats and we were hoping that we could maintain the distance between them and ourselves when suddenly the breeze died out and we were becalmed. The calm came just as we lost sight of the nearest of the pirate boats, and as darkness set in we found that the sea robbers apparently had also been becalmed. "For five mortal days and nights we stayed there, not moving an inch. The sea robbers, fortunately, did not know of our plight, since they could not see us so they did not paddle our way, in which case they would have had us completely at their mercy."

With the captain in a state of collapse and the crew on the verge of a crazy, senseless mutiny, I had a hard time maintaining discipline on board the Radjah. The vigil ended on the night of the fifth day, when a breeze sprung up and by morning we had put many miles between us and Lord North Island.

"I left the Radjah on our return to Europe and got married. Two months after I left her in the fall of the same year, the ship turned turtle during a gale two days out from Cardiff on an another voyage to Hong Kong and all but two of her crew, two sailors, were lost."

Ingersoll dollar watches at Carpenter's.

## THE "DOCTOR."

## An Important Functionary on Merchant Vessels Is the Cook.

There is one functionary on merchant vessels of all kinds who has very much more to do with the "peace and dignity" of the floating commonwealth than shore folks usually imagine. I refer to the cook, who is sometimes called the "doctor." Why he is given this cognomen is not altogether plain, for his handiwork seldom has any therapeutic value and in the past, at least, has had much to do with sending poor sailorsmen to a doctor, if not to Davy Jones' locker. In fact, there was a time in nautical history when the presiding genius of the galley was in such bad repute that to call a man a "son of a sea cook" was a most opprobrious epithet and one that would be emphatically resented. In those days (and to some extent to-day) the cook was covertly despised by the occupants both of the forecabin and the cabin, though the men "forward" outwardly professed affection for him and apparently were never so happy as when they could wash his clothes or do him various other favors, with the hope of getting sundry "leavings" from the cabin table or being granted such privileges as "hanging out" in the galley when rough weather at night made the watch on deck grateful for such shelter. In other ways it was found highly salutary to keep a good grace of his culinary majesty, who frequently was a more powerful person in some respects than the "old man" himself. It is almost needless to add that the more skilled as a cook the cook was the more profound was his influence both fore and aft. But he wasn't often much in the way of skill, all the same.—Shipping Illustrated.

## BOUGHT OFF THE BURGLAR.

## An Old Banker's Bargain With His Unwelcome Visitor.

"William Winslow Sherman, the old banker, had the coolest nerve of any man I know," said a man who knew him. "Some years ago, when Sherman was an old man and partially crippled by reason of a fall from a horse, he entered his bedroom late at night to find a masked burglar ransacking it."

"The thief had a big gun trained on Sherman in a minute. The banker just waved it aside with a tired hand. 'Put that away,' he said irritably. 'Let us discuss this matter like gentlemen.' The burglar was so surprised he laughed. 'Now, you could hurt me if you wanted to and might get away with some little knickknacks,' said Sherman. 'But you might be caught, and there's a slight probability that you could dispose of my toilet articles profitably. What would you consider a fair cash proposition to go away?' They talked it over in all peace."

"The burglar thought he ought to have \$10, but Sherman, after inquiring into the man's habits, said \$3 was enough. 'You see,' he said, 'you're a known thief. If this were your first offense, I'd pay your price, but now the police have your picture you ought to be glad to accept any fair compromise and run no risk.'"

"The burglar finally agreed to take \$3. Sherman pulled out a ten dollar bill. 'Give me \$2 change,' said he. And he got it before he paid."—Kansas City Star.

## American Humor.

American humor exists, it distinguishes the national character, it permeates all our affairs. It is not of aboriginal descent. It was not brought from England or Holland by the fathers. Its saving grace was lacking under Puritan rule. The humor of Dietrich Kulekbocker is all the more taking because of the absence of all sense of humor in the subjects of his chronicle. If our humor came over from Erin in the first rush of immigration it was quickly adapted to its new environment. It was modified and changed by new circumstances and conditions, geographical, ethnological, atmospheric. Wherever it came from it is a boon which saves us from a lot of needless trouble and worry.—New York Times.

## Why We're Ahead.

A curious explanation of the reason why "Canada has but about 7,000,000 people against America's 80,000,000" is given in a review of the world's production of coal and iron. Canada produces but 9,000,000 tons of coal against 370,000,000 tons produced by the United States, and that is why, as long as the coal age lasts, "Canada is not likely to grow to anything like the dimensions of her southern neighbor." This is an English view, and it is not open to the charge of bias.—Boston Globe.

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## QUEER BERMUDA FISH.

## Brilliant Hues and Peculiar Shades Among Their Characteristics.

The aquarium, which is one of the most interesting places in Bermuda, occupies the old Imperial magazine on Agar's Island, opposite the Sovey hills, writes Lucy Elliot Keeler in the Indianapolis News. The underground chambers and vaulted passages afford excellent opportunity for the arrangement of tall tanks, where one may observe the fish comfortably on a level with one's eyes. The fish are all from Bermudian waters, and though the numbers are far less than those in the New York aquarium the collection is the most brilliantly colored of any it has been my fortune to see. Indeed, many of the colors are of the kinds called impossible. Nothing but the rainbow itself can rival the angel fish, with its flashing blues and greens and yellows, as it swims lazily, its slow motions instinct with grace. It is broad, often weighs up to four pounds, and surpasses all other local fish in the flavor of its flesh as well as in its lovely hues.

The four eyed fish, small and delighting in sheltered coves, has its true eyes hidden in a long black stripe, slanting across its body, while two black spots in its tail are sufficiently realistic to deceive any casual enemy into mistaking the fish's tail for its head.

The hog fish is very common here, its popular name being derived from its swinelike profile and dentition. The long slender looking snout of its fins gives it a singularly graceful appearance. Specimens often weigh twenty pounds. The Spanish hog fish has a coat of much splendor about half blue and half yellow.

Hamlets and groupers are the same thing, the young fish called by the first name, and those longer than twenty inches by the second. "Hamlet" suggests a dual personality, the fish changing color rapidly, representing when dark, the gloomy Prince of Denmark; and when pale and glossy, the Prince's father's ghost. We went to the Devil's Cave one day, a natural cave open above, where the fishermen often keep their catches, and over which an ancient Neptune looking native with his trident, presides. At feeding time the groupers, many of them four feet long, rushed up eagerly for their food, making a tremendous splashing; and the array of their great open mouths was almost terrifying. These fish possess the protective device of changing their color rapidly.

Sergeant majors, with five black cross bands upon their yellow sides, like the chevrons of that non-commissioned officer, the doctor fish, with lance-like processes on the side of its caudal peduncle, and with professional instinct keeping its nose close to the pipe down which fresh water was brought to the tank; the snoutfish, brighter than the gold fishes of our fresh water aquarium; and the bonito and amber fish, so highly prized for table use; the sea bream, less than six inches long, old gold in color, elevating at will a delicate coronet, and tumbling gently from ledge to ledge as it worked its way down the tank; and the soapfish, which makes a lather, when attacked, to conceal itself from its enemy—how different all the creatures are from the fish of our northern waters.

Among the other forms of fish were black eels and morays; some striped morays weaving themselves in and out of a drain pipe and about each other until it seemed as if they could never get untied. The green morays were solid moss color, six inches thick and possibly seven feet long. I was told that these creatures coil themselves and strike like a cobra, up from a depth of thirty feet of water but I cannot vouch for the truth of the statement.

One tank was devoted to small octopi, sticking like inert masses against the sides of the tank fastened to its glass wall by hundreds of autolite suckers. As the keeper poked them with a stick they changed color, unwinding their vicious arms, recalling to the spectator the monsters in Victor Hugo's novel, "Toilers of the Sea." A dead octopus, uncured on a neighboring beach, measured fourteen feet around. No less fantastic, though far less hideous, were the crayfishes, such as we eat for Sunday suppers, a delicious white flesh with garish colored shells, which once a year split down the back and are immediately crawled out of by their erstwhile inhabitants. Bermuda children have a debonaire fashion of

fishing for crayfishes with a bit of red flannel tied to a stout string. Only the fisher must be patient and allow time for digestion to begin before jerking the victim out of the water. These creatures have more legs than I could count, very long whips pointed almost to a hair; and they propel themselves, with their tails moving through the water with startling rapidity.

## Canine Exercise.

"Justin, said Mrs. Wynn. "Yes," replied Mr. Wynn. "Will you speak a kind word to Fido and make him wag his tail. He hasn't had one bit of exercise all day."—Lippincott's.

## Army Education.

The conditions confronting officers and men who have children to educate, are simply pitiful. Many an officer is at this moment in debt, and paying interest on borrowed money, so that he may send his son or his daughter to a good school, or keep them in some place where their education will be continuous and uninterrupted. No matter of domestic army touches officers more deeply than this of the children's education.

It is true that the public schools of a city, if the post be near a city, are generous in taking boys and girls in, and some do so for a tuition fee; but it is, nevertheless, a fact that an army officer cannot demand local service as a right, because of his profession and his residence in a military reservation. Even when in a city, the post is outside of it, and the children spend from two to four hours daily travelling behind army males to and from the school-house.

The so-called "post schools" now established, and to which children are sometimes sent through absolute necessity because of isolation, are a farce, for the officer having the high sounding title of "Superintendent of Post Schools," is generally so fully occupied with other engaging military duties that he can give little or no attention to the school development and system, while the man who is teacher has usually never acted in the capacity before.

Again, officers and men are so changed about that the education of the children is subject to sad and costly interruptions, as they frequently go back one grade in their transfer from one locality to another.

Is there not a remedy for this? West Point represents hundreds of similar, though smaller cases, and these children are as lustrous, as loyal and as American as any the nation produces.—Army and Navy Life.

## Patrolmen in Various Cities.

Berlin's patrolmen are 1 to 349, Liverpool's are 1 to 449, London's 1 to 496, and Philadelphia has 1 patrolman for every 511 citizens. On Manhattan Island there is but one policeman to every 643 inhabitants.

## Words of Praise

For the several ingredients of which Dr. Pierce's medicine is composed, as given by leaders in all the several schools of medicine, should have far more weight than any amount of non-professional testimonials. Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription has the badge of honesty on every bottle wrapper, in a full list of all its ingredients printed in plain English.

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Kidney ills come quietly—mysteriously. But nature always warns you. Notice the kidney symptoms. See if the color is unhealthy—If there are settlements and sediment, Passages frequent, scanty, painful, It's time to use Donn's Kidney Pills. To ward off Bright's disease or diabetes.

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TERMS MADE KNOWN ON DAY OF SALE

## What Ma Says.

Ma says that you can never tell what a man is going to be like after he's married any more than you can tell if a dress is going to fit until you wear it.

## Truth Kept Busy.

"Truth crushed to earth will rise again," says the Philosopher of Polly, "but it seems a pity that she has to spend her whole time in a continuous performance of resurrections."

## Little Meat; Good Health.

Italians of the poorer class generally enjoy good health. This is partly attributed to the fact that the working class of Italy eat less meat than those of other European nations.



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